Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: PHARMACISTS STRIKE

REF: LAGOS 8417

- 1. STRIKING PHARMACISTS EMPLOYED BY STATE MINISTERIES OF HEALTH CALLED OFF STRIKE ACTION
 AUGUST 4 AND RETURNED TO WORK AUGUST 5, 1977 AFTER FEDERAL
 MINISTRY OF ESTABLISHMENTS AGREED TO JOIN REPRESENTATIVES
 OF NIGERIAN UNION OF DISPENSING ASSISTANTS (NUDA) AND
 FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOR AT NEGOTIATING TABLE.
- 2. TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATING PANEL CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE PARTIES WLL MEET AUGUST 18, 1977 TO CONSIDER UNION'S DEMANDS FOR PAY INCREASES, AND CHANGING DESIGNATION OF "DISPENSING ASSISTANTS" TO "PHARMACY TECHNICIANS."

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3. FMG HANDLED STRIKE ACTION MUCH MORE ADROITLY THAN 1976 STRIKE OFBANK EMPLOYEES. WE UNDERSTAND INITIAL NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD BETWEEN STATE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND STRIKING WORKERS RATHER THAN BY FMG MINISTRY OF HEALTH. THUS GOVERNMENT DID NOT TAKE OFFICIAL COGNIZANCE OF STRIKE AND FEEL FORCED TO TAKE POLICE ACTION TO RETURN WORKERS TO THEIR JOBS. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT NATIONAL SECURITY

ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS CALLED ON UNION LEADERS "UNOFFICIALLY" AND URGED THEM TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH IN ORDER TO SOLVE PROBLEM WITHOUT FORCING FMG'S HAND.

- 4. THE FMG'S APPROACH SUGGESTS ITS SENSITIVITY TO INCREASING RESTIVENESS OF LABOR LEADERS WHICH HAS GRADUALLY DEVELOPED AS RESUL OF A) DELAY IN ESTABLISHING NEW UNION ORGANIZATIONS, B) INCREASING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF WORKERS.
- 5. STRIKERS PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRAW FULL SALARIES FOR AUGUST UNDER PROVISIONS OF NEW TRADE DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) DECREE 54 OF 1977 DISALLOWING PAY DURING PERIODS WORKERS ARE ON STRIKE. THIS NEW DECREE MAY SPARK ANOTHER CONTROVERSY BETWEEN UNION AND GOVERNMENT IF IT IS ENFORCED.

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